

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An implantable tissue approximation device comprising:
a supportive backing having a front side, a back side, and at least one through-hole
formed therethrough; and

at least one attachment point extending from the front side of said backing in a non-orthogonal manner.

2. (Original) The tissue approximation device of claim 1 wherein said backing has a shape in the form of a character selected from the group consisting of C, H, I, L, T, U, V, Λ, and ∩

3. (Previously Cancelled).

Claims 4-7: (Currently Cancelled).

8. (Original) The tissue approximation device of claim 1 wherein said backing is configured to be flexible.

9. (Previously Cancelled).

10. (Currently Cancelled).

11. (Original) The tissue approximation device of claim 1 wherein said backing comprises porous material.

12. (Original) The tissue approximation device of claim 11 wherein said porous material comprises a mesh, net, or lattice.

13. (Original) The tissue approximation device of claim 1 wherein said backing comprises a solid material.

Claims 14-15: (Currently Cancelled).

16. (Previously Amended) The tissue approximation device of claim 1 wherein said at least one attachment point includes a shape and direction selected from the group consisting of canted tines, erect tines, canted hooks, canted arrowheads, erect barbed tipped tines, canted barbed tipped tines, erect arrowhead tipped tines, canted arrowhead tipped tines, erect nail-shaped tines, canted nail-shaped tines, and cheese grater-like tines.

Claims 17-19: (Currently Cancelled).

20. (Previously Cancelled).

21. (Previously Amended) The tissue approximation device of claim 1 wherein the at least one attachment point includes a plurality of attachment points, and wherein the at least one through-hole is disposed between the attachment points.

22. (Previously Cancelled).

23. (Currently Cancelled).

24. (Original) The tissue approximation device of claim 1 wherein the supportive backing is rigid.

25. (Original) The tissue approximation device of claim 24 wherein the supportive backing has a strength sufficient to set fragmented bones.

26. (Previously Amended) The tissue approximation device of claim 1 wherein the at least one through hole includes a plurality of through-holes formed through the supportive backing.

Claims 27-45: (Previously Cancelled).

46. (Original) The tissue approximation device of claim 1 wherein said device comprises a material selected from the group consisting of biodegradable and biological materials.

47. (Original) The tissue approximation device of claim 46 wherein said biological material comprises one or more materials selected from the group consisting of collagen, hydroxyapatite from natural sources, hydroxyapatite from synthetic sources, bone graft, and any polymerized versions or composites thereof.

48. (Currently Amended) The tissue approximation device of claim 1 wherein said ~~[backing is]~~ front and back sides are curved.

49. (Original) The tissue approximation device of claim 1 wherein said device is configured such that it is shapeable intra-operatively for use in a patient's body.

50. (Currently Amended) The tissue approximation device of claim ~~18~~ 1 wherein said back side of said backing is concave.

Claims 51-53: (Currently Cancelled).

54. (Previously Amended) The tissue approximation device of claim 26 wherein said at least one attachment point includes a plurality of attachment points that are interspersed among the plurality of through-holes.

55. (Original) The tissue approximation device of claim 1 wherein said device comprises at least one therapeutic agent.

56. (Original) The tissue approximation device of claim 55 wherein said device is impregnated with said at least one therapeutic agent.

57. (Original) The tissue approximation device of claim 55 wherein said device is coated with said at least one therapeutic agent.

58. (Original) The tissue approximation device of claim 57 wherein said at least one therapeutic agent is selected from the group consisting of proteins, pharmaceuticals, genetic material.

Claims 59-61: (Currently Cancelled).

Claims 62-91: (Previously Cancelled).